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SLAM BANG SHOTGUN

SPECIFICATIONS:

CATEGORY IMPROVISED-HOMEMADE
CALIBRE 12 TO .410 GAUGE
CAPACITY SINGLE SHOT
EXTRACTOR NONE

REMARKS: WIDELY EMPLOYED BY URBAN GUERRILLAS DURING AND AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR FOR DEFENSE.

OPERATION DETAIL:

To load the weapon, insert the shell into the barrel (seamless or water pipe tubing). Chamber diameter depends on the type of shell used. After loading the barrel chamber, the rear sleeve grip containing the built-in breech block with firing pin is fit on to the barrel. The rear sleeve normally envelopes the chamber about 10 to 12 inches. This allowance is necessary to give the user a comfortable grip when slamming the sleeve to the barrel to ignite the cartridge. It is advantageous to cut deep serrations or wrap the sleeve with rubber for a positive grip.

It has been a practice by urban users to simply reverse the barrel after firing the first shell and load the other end with another shell, without extracting the empty shell. According to them, the empty shell will be pushed out by the pellets when the weapon is fired. This may have been the major cause of numerous accidents involving the use of this type of weapon. Ignorance and incompetence in the handling of any weapon, either commercial or improvised, often leads to tragic accidents.

CONSTRUCTION DETAIL:

Most weapons of the slam bang type were commonly built with cheap water pipe tubing. Gunsmiths with greater know-how and access to

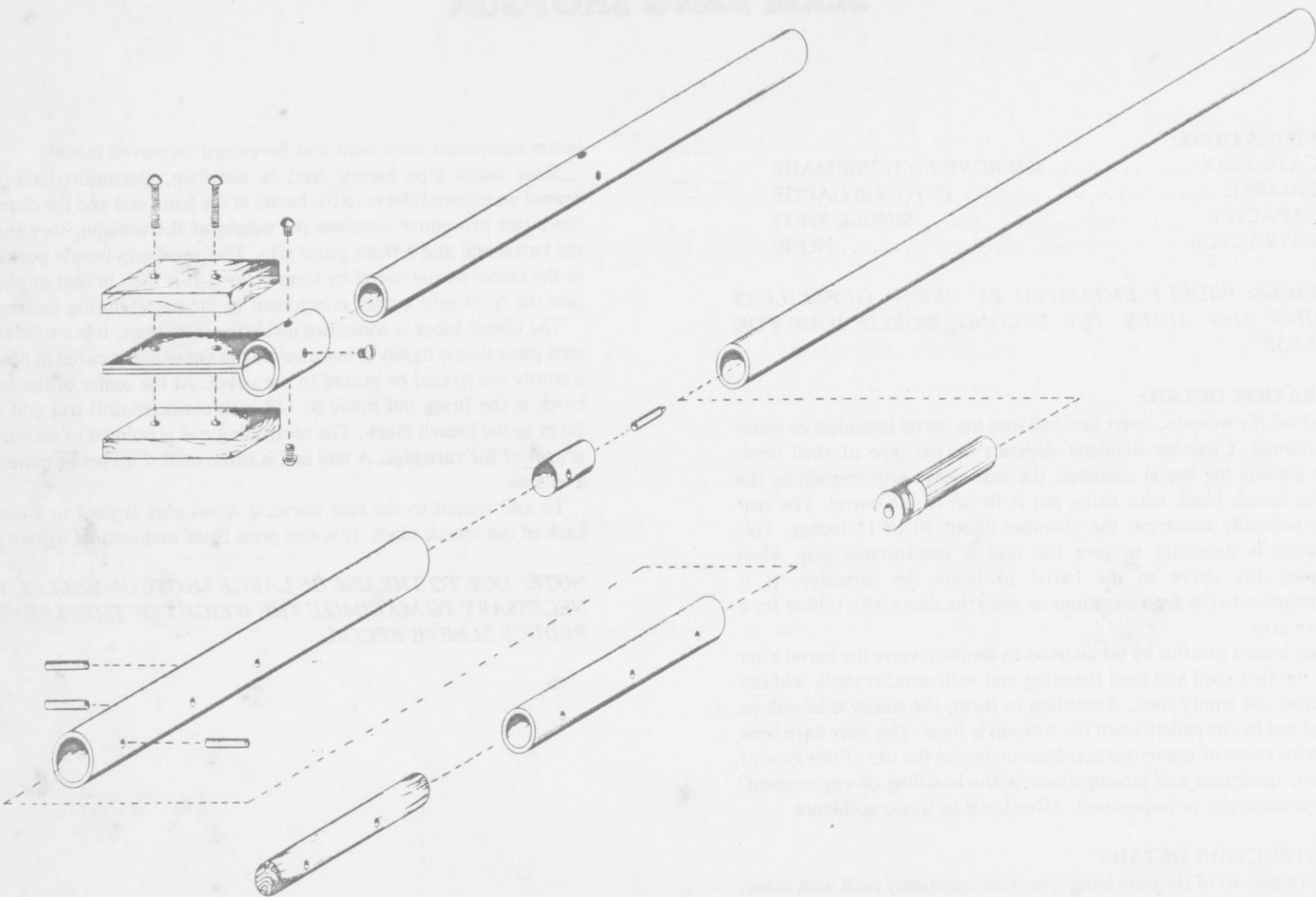
better equipment have built and developed improved models.

Since water pipe barrels tend to blow up, gunsmiths have often brazed an external sleeve to the barrel at the front end and the chamber. Since this procedure increases the weight of the weapon, they shorten the barrel and add a front pistol grip. The pistol grip base is positioned at the center of the barrel by three screws. It is then brazed in place to give the front grip a rigid attachment to the barrel during battery.

The breech block is contained inside the rear sleeve. It is a solid round steel piece that is tightly pressed inside the sleeve and secured in place by a sturdy pin riveted or brazed to the sleeve. At the center of the breech block is the firing pin made of 1/8 inch diameter drill rod and press fitted to the breech block. The protruding end is pointed to activate the primer of the cartridge. A nail end is often used if no better material is available.

To add weight to the rear sleeve, a wood plug is used to cover the back of the breech block. It is also press fitted and secured by two pins.

NOTE: DUE TO THE USE OF LARGE SHOTGUN SHELLS, IT IS NECESSARY TO MAXIMIZE THE WEIGHT OF THE SLEEVE TO REDUCE SLEEVE RECOIL.



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